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ESTABLISHED 1841.

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MARRIAGE.
On the 21st December, at the Union Church,
Hongkong, by the Rev. C. H. Hickling, JOHN
ALEXANDER, third son of the late ROBERT PATRICK
ALEXANDER, N.Z., to MARGARET, second
daughter of the late CORNELIUS SCANLON, of
Cashel, Ireland.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 11, DE VOUX ROAD, 31.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, 30TH DECEMBER, 1903

It seems very likely that among the
future to be settled in 1904 is that of the
question of the predominance of outside influence in
Tibet; or at least, if it is not settled next
year, a step towards settlement is prob-
able. It is, since the "two days" of the
eighteenth century, when Tibet was itself a
nation fairly able to hold its own with its
neighbours, China has been the one dominant
influence; and so far did China encourage
the natural exclusiveness of the Tibetans
that no other nation ever succeeded in get-
ting a footing. But in the latter half of the
nineteenth century Chinese power in Tibet
diminished greatly, though her traditional
influence might remain. Of late years,
there is no doubt, Russia, through the
medium of some of her Buriat subjects,
Buddhists of the same school as the Tibetans,
has been making attempts to gain the footing
previously denied. Perhaps reports in the
British Press have rather exaggerated Rus-
sia's doings, but that they were not entirely
groundless is plain from the admissions in
the Russian papers. The latter have, in
their turn, accused Britain of intriguing in
Tibet, but the manner in which up to the
present year we have allowed China and
Tibet to ignore their promises to provide
increased trade facilities across the Sikkim-
Tibetan frontier should be a sufficient
answer. Lord Curzon, however, has this
year initiated a more worthy policy of
insistence on the fulfilment of engagements,
the outcome of which is the expedition now
on Tibetan soil. Operations have not so
far been of a very active or arduous nature.
The inhabitants indeed have been passive

rather than hostile. The Jelap Pass (alone
has been crossed yet, and it is only
intended to advance to Gyantse,
some 150 miles from Lhasa
itself, unless the attitude of the Tibe-
tans renders further procedure necessary.
China appears perfectly inert in the matter.
As for Russia, rumours are many, including
even an absurd tale of Russian engineers
fortifying Lhasa, but beyond the bluster of
the S. Petersburg Press little is heard about
the opinion in the Tsar's Empire of the
British expedition.

The first British attempt to open com-
mercial communications between India and
Tibet is 130 years old. The idea was that
of WARREN HASTINGS, and he began to
attempt to carry it out in 1774. As was
but natural in those days of slow communi-
cations and in a land even then intensely
exclusive, negotiations and efforts went on
for years. HASTINGS left India in 1785,
and his successors, less far-sighted than he
was, abandoned the task. Even during the
unsuccessful war of the Nepalese against
Tibet and China in 1792, Britain did not
intervene, which she might well have done
with profit. Nearly another century passed
before, in 1834, again a quarrel between
Nepal and Tibet called attention to the
question. In the interval it is true that
small quantities of goods filtered into Tibet
from India and vice-versa; and a few Indian
natives, who had been trained by the Indian
Geographical Department, penetrated into
Tibet disguised as merchants. Even in
1885 a proposed British exploring
expedition was totally defeated by the
passive resistance of the Lamas, backed
secretly by Peking; but, on Britain
consenting to withdraw the mission, China
signed an agreement at Peking in 1886,
whereby she promised, "after careful
enquiry into the circumstances, to adopt
measures to exhort and encourage the
people" [of Tibet] "with a view to the
promotion and development of trade."

The Lamas, however, were excited by
the British withdrawal and made the res-
trictions on trade greater than ever and
even occupied posts in Sikkim, in con-
sequence of which a military force was de-
patched against them from India in the
spring of 1888. But a pause was soon
made, to await Chinese mediation. This
was so long in coming that in Sep-tember
of the same year the Tibetans were attacked
and driven to Chumbi, a name which we
often hear now. A Chinese emissary
thereupon promised speedy opening of
negotiations. The ultimate result of these
was the Tibet-Sikkim convention of 1890,
by which the British protectorate over
Sikkim was definitely recognised, while the
question of providing increased facilities for
trade across the frontier was to be hereafter
discussed, as also was that of the method
in which official communications between
India and Tibet should be conducted. In
spite of this treaty, however, no steps what-
ever were taken by the authorities in Tibet
with regard to increasing trade facilities, and
another convention in 1893 proved equally
ineffective. Ten years have passed, and In-
dian trade is barred out as closely as ever.
It cannot be said that the Indian Govern-
ment has not shown patience; others might
call it by a harder name. But now it has
been decided that Tibet and the vague influ-
ence of China behind must be brought to
reason, and that no more excuses and possi-
bility shall be allowed to prevent the carrying
out of promises, some of them really seven-
teen years old. The course is the only
dignified one possible. Hitherto the Indian
Government has but succeeded in making
itself ridiculous in the eyes of the Lamas.

The German mail of the 25th November was
delivered in London on the 26th inst.

Hongkong policemen will be interested to hear
that according to *Lloyd's Weekly*, the London
police are to get an increase of 3/- a week.

Wild dogs are reported to be numerous in the
neighbourhood of Lokmashow, near Lantia
Police Station. They come down from the hills
at night and devastate the hen-roosts.

On the Praya East vehicle traffic is now
impossible owing to the P. W. D. operations in
lightening the level of the road. Rickshaws,
etc., have to go round by Morrison Hill.

Inspector A. C. Lingley sends us an invita-
tion to a smoking concert to be given by the
Police Force at Tsimshatsui Station, Kowloon,
on New Year's Eve, commencing at 7.30.

Notwithstanding the vacation in the
Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Wilsen sat yesterday
to hear several cases. These were of an
unimportant nature and did not occupy much
time in being disposed of.

In our report of the "Tansan" trade mark
case at Singapore yesterday, we were made, by
an obvious printer's error, to state that the water
was first introduced into Singapore under the
name "tansan" in 1898. From the context it
might have been guessed that this should read
"in 1893."

A new golf course was opened at Singapore
on the 15th inst. Singapore is rich in links.

On the 20th inst. 48 shops were burnt in a
serious conflagration at Shanghai. A fatigue
party from H.M.S. *Sirius* got the fire under
control.

The success of Mr. W. A. G. Tilke's stable
at the Bangkok Races continued on the second
day, the 10th inst., when 4 wins out of 7 fell
to him.

The Kobo match-merchants are preparing a
grand reception for Governor Taft of the
Philippines, who is now en route to Japan and
the United States.

Four European police constables at Singapore
have been dismissed the service, says the
Singapore Free Press, but no reason is given
for this action.

Captain Lyons, C.P.S., has inaugurated a
Christmas-tree party for the children of the
members of the police force and their friends
to take place on the 31st inst.

The fourth dance of the season, to be given
by the Masonic Quadrille Club, takes place at
the Masonic Hall, Ice House Street, on
Saturday evening, the 2nd prox. The Star
Perry will leave for Kowloon at 1 a.m.

It is said of the Bishop of Oxford that, when
advised to take a motor-car trip during his
last summer holidays, he replied that he could not
do that as he did not understand the mechanism,
and had no desire to be a "bishop in partibus."

We have received from Messrs. Kelly and
Walsh an advance copy of their *Imperial En-
glish and Chinese Dictionary for 1904*. It contains
a great deal of useful information and is a very
handy diary for business men.

Through the negligence of the coolies in
heaping up the stones piled ready for road
repairs, in Rangoon, Mr. G. C. B. Van Somer-
r, Barrister-at-law, met with a fatal accident,
while driving a friend to the railway station.

The new White Star steamer *Baltic*, launched
on 23rd November at Belfast, easily takes first
place as the largest vessel in the world. Her
length is 725ft, 5ins, breadth 75ft, depth 49ft,
and gross tonnage 24,000. There will be ac-
commodation for 3,000 passengers.

The Treasury in Peking is evidently doing
all it can to facilitate currency matters. The
Assistant Treasurer courteously informs the
Press that the Treasury is now supplied with a
quantity of currency notes of 55 denomination,
which will be issued in exchange for British and
Mexican dollars, to bona-fide traders who wish
to carry currency to places with which Peking
has a cash trade. The dollars will be issued in
multiples of \$100.

There has just been issued from the office of
the *Hongkong Daily Press* the *Directory of
Protestant Missionaries in China, Japan, and
Corea for the year 1904*. All the various
missions are put under their respective heads,
showing the members of them, and in addition
there is an alphabetical list of the names, so that
reference is easy. It will be incorporated in the
blue paper covers; it will be incorporated in the
Daily Press Chronicle and Directory when that
is ready for publication.

Closely following on the marriage of Princess
Alice of Battenberg to Prince Nicolas of Greece,
comes the announcement of the betrothal of her
cousin, Princess Alice of Albany, to Prince
Alexander of Teck, brother of the Princess
of Wales. The marriage is to take place in the
early spring. It will be remembered that it was
in favour of the Duke of Albany, brother of
Princess Alice, that the Duke of Connaught
gave up his right of succession to the Duchy of
Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, after the suicide of the
young heir some years ago.

The following is from the *Daily Express*:—
Mr. Norman Mackenzie, of the Church Mis-
sionary Society, describing his experiences in
connection with the dreadful famine in the
Kwangsi, a province of Southern China, says:
—"The distress was certainly more acute here
than in any place visited subsequently. It was
here where human flesh, usually that of executed
criminals, was sold in open market. Women
and girls were sold by the hundred, and taken
to Canton and elsewhere, until it was estimated
that some 10,000 or more had been sold."

A home paper announces that Mrs. Richard-
son, the last surviving daughter of John Peel,
the famous huntsman and hero of the well-
known hunting song, "Dye ken John Peel?"
has died at Greenwig, Calderbeck, at the age of
eighty. "Calderbeck" should be "Caldbeck."
There is still a nephew of John Peel alive, of
the same name; he resides in Newton-stewart,
Scotland. By the way, John Peel's horn
commemorated in song is now in possession of
the M. P. for Lancaster. It is a battered old
brass call more like a policeman's whistle than
anything else.

A Hongkong police inspector tells a good
story about an incident that happened at
Christmas. Two blue-jackets got to words and
chase the public street as the venue on which
the quarrel should be settled by fisticuffs. Just
as the would-be combatants were about to begin
the fighting the inspector came on the scene and
used his well-known persuasive eloquence to
prevent trouble. Taking the men each in turn
he told them it would be foolish to fight at
Christmas time. After talking them over, the
inspector got the sailors to shake hands with
each other. As they did so, one of them said
to the other, "The inspector's right nose off to
but I'll knock your adjointed nose off to-
morrow."

The Royal Artillery propose to give a dance
on the 19th January next.

On the recommendation of the Principal
Medical Officer of the Bengal Presidency, an
experiment to be made at Dum Dum in des-
troying the larvae of mosquitoes by kerosene oil
has been sanctioned.

Chinese property-owners in Selangor are said
to have been badly hit by the recent depression
of the tin-market. They are resorting to
mortgages on all sides, and the next Chinese
New Year is expected to be ushered in with
very gloomy prospects.

A performance was given in Tokyo in
Christmas week of two short plays, *Pellican
Porphyry* and *A Fantomine Rehearsal*. Sir
Claude MacDonald was the chief organiser, and
the proceeds were given to the Union Jack Club
in London, a club open to all soldiers, sailors, or
marines on leave or adrift.

Mr. J. S. Thomson, acting local agent for the
Pacific Mail Steamship Co., writes to us to
explain that there is no delay to the mail by the
Korea, with the exception of that for Shanghai,
as the Korea, being a 21-knot vessel, is quite able
to make up one day's delay caused by waiting
for the U.S. Secretary of War.

Sir Henry Blake seems to be reforming
Government hours in Colombo a little. We
read in the *Times of Ceylon*:—"We understand
that H.E. the Governor has sent an order to the
Secretariat fixing the hours of work of the
Government clerks from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
The time of beginning work now is half-an-hour
earlier than has been the practice hitherto.
His Excellency has also desired a record kept
of the daily attendance."

It may be of interest to the gentlemen who
are responsible for the project of running a
turbine steamer between here and Canton to
know that the new turbine passenger steamer
Brighton established a record recently when she
succeeded in passing the pierhead at Dieppe
2hrs. 59mins. after leaving Newhaven pier,
a distance of sixty-four knots, or seventy-five
miles.

Dr. Alberts, of Schoenberg, has discovered
that rabbits subjected to the action of X-rays
become useless for breeding purposes. The
doctor thinks that herein may lie the solution
of the rabbit difficulty in Australia, and in an
elaborate pamphlet has invited his medical
brethren to continue the investigation with this
object. One less learned than the doctor,
suggests the *Express*, might imagine that the
Australians would prefer to kill the rabbits
when caught.

It is always interesting to compare other
people's ideas about our Government with our
own. We read in the *Manila Sunday Sun*:—"The
Senate favours the treaty recently signed
by the Chinese Government which concedes
special privileges to American traders in the
Celestial Empire. Only a few months of
inactivity on the part of the State Department
and any commercial treaty with China will be
absolutely worthless if the Powers in favour of
disarmament are allowed to proceed as
Russia has in Manchuria. France in the south
is watching the Kwangsi rebellion, waiting to
pounce upon that unprotected province at the
slightest pretext, while the Germans and
English are both playing a desperate game to
obtain control of the Yangtze valley." Yet
we cannot see a trace of activity, much less
"desperate play," on the part of our Government
in the Yangtze region. The long sleep, as far
as we are able to judge out here, continues as
sound as ever.

The Japan Mail deals thus with the latest
re-hash in the *Daily Mail* of the "Emily-Brown-
alias-Lady-Om-Empress-of-Corea" story, an
earlier version of which we alluded to a few
months ago:—"This is a splendid mass of
confused nonsense, much better fitted for the
pages of the *Arabian Nights* than for the
columns of a London journal. Who was the
original romance, we wonder. The Lady Om
is undoubtedly a real person, but that her name
means 'the dawn of the morning' is just about
as true as her identity with 'Emily Brown.'"
It is also true that the Lady Om ought to be
the Emperor's wife for the same reason that
Dama Marjory ought to have been Simon's, but
the whole tale of the coronation is the purest of
inventions. We suspect, however, that Lady
Om is not the only spark from which this
sensational smoke has ascended. There is a
story current about a Russian lady in Seoul,
who, speaking Korean admirably, and having
been an intimate friend of the late Queen, still
has access to the Palace, and is often consulted
by the Emperor, though it need scarcely be
said that she has no Dame-Marjory aspirations.
Perhaps the American idealist who manu-
factured the "Emily-Brown" story, rolled Om
and the Russian lady into one and supplemented
the compound with the former's aspirations to
be raised to the position of an honest woman at
the time when the Emperor hopes to celebrate
his jubilee, whenever that may be.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The race for the Commodore's Cups will be
sailed on Friday, the 1st January, starting at
11 a.m. Course, Mah-wan island (starboard).
Handicap—*Fernon, Elsiebeth, and Diane*, scotch;
Aileen, 3 min.; *Alannah*, 8 min.; *One-Design*, 13
min.; *Jessie*, 20 min.; *Chanticleer*, 28 min.;
Meteor, 22 min. 50 sec.; *Payne*, 28 min.
There are three cups. Only one cup may go to
each class.

TELEGRAMS.

"DAILY PRESS" SERVICE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA"
COLLISION CASE.

SHANGHAI, December 29th, 5.50 p.m.

THE VERDICT.

The *Empress of India* has been found
solely culpable. Judgment has been given
in favour of the *Wong Tai*, with costs
against the *Empress of India*.

TWO BIG CRUISERS SOLD.

LONDON, 29th December, 12 a.m.

WHO IS THE PURCHASER?

The cruisers building at Genoa for the
Argentine Republic, the *Moreno* and *Riva-
davia*, both 20-knot boats, of 7,700 tons,
have been sold for £1,500,000.

REUTERS'S SERVICE.

RUSSIA IN MANCHURIA.

LONDON, 27th December.

The Russian Press is showing alarm at the
increasing numbers and activity of bands of
Hunhuses in Manchuria. The bands, which are
well armed, overrun the country and terrorise
and pillage the inhabitants. The Russian
troops are undergoing great hardships and
suffering considerable loss in endeavouring to
keep the bands in check [? check].

The reorganisation of the Chinese army is
causing considerable concern in Governmental
circles in St. Petersburg, where it is viewed as a
sign of distrust in Russia.

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE.

LONDON, 27th December.

M. Delcassé, speaking in the Senate, said
that France and Great Britain being mutually
complementary to each other, conciliation was
always possible.

THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

LONDON, 27th December.

M. Delcassé in the French Senate, referring
to the Far East, said that there was nothing to
justify any reliance on alarmist reports of the
possibility of war (between Russia and Japan)
resulting in a treaty leaving neutrals no trade
advantages in Corea and Manchuria.

The United States are pressing Corea to open
Wija, and China to open Antung and
Moukden.

In view of the situation in the Orient, the
United States Asiatic Squadron, now at Hon-
olulu, will start on its return to Cavite on
Tuesday.

LICENSING SESSIONS.

The Justices of the Peace assembled yester-
day afternoon at 2.15 o'clock, at the Magistrate's
Court, to consider the application of James D. M.
Cameron for the transfer of his Publican's
Licence to sell liquors on the premises known
as the Occidental Hotel, Nos. 40 to 44, Elgin
Road, Kowloon, to one Rudolf Matthey. The
applicant was represented by Mr. Grist, of the
firm of Wilkinson and Grist, solicitors.

The Justices present were Mr. T. Sercombe
Smith, presiding, Captain Lyons, C. S. P., and
Messrs. J. H. Kemp and C. A. D. Melbourne.
There being no police or other objections to
the transfer applied for, the application was
granted unanimously. There being no other
business before the meeting the sessions were
then adjourned.

EXTENSIVE ROBERT.

On entering his shop on the morning of the
17th inst. Li Chen Cheong, a large dealer in
miscellaneous goods, opened his safe, to obtain
some money to meet some payments he had to
make, when he discovered that the safe had been
opened, and \$4,500 extracted. Information was
immediately given to the police, and detectives
were put on the case, when, as a result of
their investigations, one Li Chap Chung, a
clerk in the employ of Li Chen Cheong, and
who sleeps in the shop, was found in possession
of a key that opens the safe. In consequence
of this discovery Li Chap Chung was arrested,
and yesterday placed before Mr. T. Sercombe
Smith, at the Magistrate's Court, when after evi-
dence of the arrest had been taken, the case was
remanded, on the application of Mr. Holmes,
solicitor, who has been retained in the case for
the defence.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Hongkong Observatory yesterday issued
the following report:—
On the 29th at 11.30a. The barometer has
fallen much at Vladivostok, risen quickly
over N. China.
The depression lying over Manchuria yester-
day has moved Eastwards into the N. part of
the Sea of Japan.
A high pressure area lies over Central China.
Strong monsoon in the Formosa Channel and
China Sea.
Forecast:—moderate to fresh N. winds; fine.

SUDDEN DEATH AT THE SAILORS'
HOME.

On Sunday night another sudden death took
place, the deceased being a British sailor, named
John Wilson, who had lately been discharged
from the British sailing vessel *Glen Down*. It
appears that the man went to the Sailors' Home,
at West Point, on the 5th inst., and had been
staying there since, drinking heavily meanwhile.
On Saturday night last he returned to the
Home about 10 o'clock, utterly inebriated, and
was seen to bed by the watchman. The next
morning, between 5 and 6 o'clock, he was found
dead in his bed. A post-mortem held later in
the day by Dr. Hunter, at the mortuary,
revealed the fact that the cause of death was
accolism. Deceased was 42 years of age, and
believed to be unmarried.

THE TAIKOO SPORTS.

Full preparations have been made for the
Taikoo sports to be held on the 1st January, 1904.
An energetic committee have been assisting
Mr. W. M. Scott, the chairman, and Mr. R. H.
Stephenson, the secretary, in making arrange-
ments for the event, and it is anticipated that
the sports will surpass any that have been held
yet under Taikoo auspices. About 700 invita-
tions have been sent out by the committee. The
ground is in excellent condition. All the events
have filled well, especially the cycling. On the
whole the cycling should be better than
anything seen in Hongkong so far. McKirdy,
of course, is favoured for the five-miles and two-
miles, but he has formidable rivals to compete
against in Austen and Merican, not to mention
L. Twomey, who will also race, we understand.
Palmer and Forbes are reported to be going
strong; Sinclair is also showing good form. Of
the others, it may be said they have not done a
great deal of training, always excepting Holmes.
It is rather a pity that that well-known figure
on the racing track, J. M. Bailey, is not compet-
ing this year; he rides pluckily and is always
a dangerous opponent to meet. In the flat
racing, Kinnaird is being backed for first place
in the 1/2 and 1/4 miles. J. Watson has been "off
colour," but doubtless he will toe the line when
time is called. A good race between Kinnaird
and Watson will be worth seeing; the old
Clydesdale Harriers man, if in "going" form
should put up a pretty race. Cyclists who have
been training on the track speak well of its
condition. It has just undergone repairs.
A grand stand has been erected, capable of
accommodating 300 people. The 100 yards
race will be run as usual, across the grass course,
which is in fine condition. There will be a bar
at which light refreshments can be obtained,
and, indeed, under the supervision of Mr.
Stephenson every provision possible has been
made for the comfort of the guests. Of course
the handicappers have not yet come to light, but
there is little doubt that the awards of the
handicappers will be received with as much
satisfaction as the award of any handicapper
ever was. The handicappers are Messrs. T.
Grimshaw, F. W. White, A. McKirdy, J.
Gloyd and T. Meek.

CLUB LUSITANO.

EXTENSIVE IMPROVEMENTS.

The Club Lusitano, one of the pioneer clubs of
the Colony, is undergoing extensive improve-
ments, which, necessitating a heavy outlay, must
indicate prosperity. The club, ever since the
days of Governor Coelho d'Amalal of Macao,
who laid the foundation stone of the building,
has always been of good standing. Perhaps,
though, it was never so flourishing financially
as at the present time. A few years ago, the
building covered more ground than it does now,
a portion of the property—the theatre—being
sold when the concern was turned into a limited
company. Under the new arrangements there
are two billiard-rooms, one on either hand
as one enters the hall; two tables are
in each room. At the back on the right is
the library, and on the left the bar. The whole
flooring downstairs has just been
tiled in handsome design, replacing plank;
upstairs, on the first floor, is a spacious ball-
room, the windows facing Shelley Street. A
noteworthy feature here is:—lucina oil painting
of a King of Portugal. Other decorations,
though simple in themselves, are displayed with
great taste. By erecting a stage in the ball-
room it becomes a good hall for amateur
theatricals; ordinarily the chamber is used as a
sitting-room. The dining-room, also on the
first floor, looks on to Elgin Terrace, the view
green-rooms on the opposite side, also to the rear
of the ball-room. Second and third floors are
used for members' bed-rooms. From a verandah,
opening on to the third floor, one gets a very
fair view of the harbour.

NOTES FROM CHINA-TOWN.

Though money has been somewhat tight of
late, business on the whole is good. The
bountiful rice-harvest, too, has greatly added to
general prosperity. Cattle continue to arrive
in a very healthy condition from Kwangtung
and Kwangsi pastures, and Canton industries
for the greater part are in a flourishing con-
dition. Cracker-factories are particularly busy
preparing for the Chinese New Year, and so
indeed, are the various confectioners. The New
Year is still too far distant, though, for general
preparations. A notable illustration of Chi-
nese thrift has just come to light:—the wives of
a very wealthy resident at Canton—a family
very rolling in money, so to speak—being em-
ployed daily making large quantities of moon-
cakes, which are hawked on the streets and sold
at cut-throat prices. The sale of sweet-smelling
jasmine from the same gentleman's front gar-
den, also, is said not only to pay the gardeners'
wages, but yield a considerable income.

CORRESPONDENCE

HONGKONG UNPLEASANTRIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 29th December.

SIR,—In spite of all appearing in the Hongkong Press to the contrary, Hongkong is still a long way from being a "garden of roses." What with sleepless nights caused by rowdies on the lower levels, and by dogs on the hill-side, and what with unpleasant odours prevailing everywhere, you have a lot of work to do still before "clapping your own hands" can be considered justifiable. So strong are the unpleasant odours encountered in the Causeway Road district, for instance, that nothing short of Kipling's *City of Dreadful Night* could describe them. To go further into the matter of noises, making investigations as to cause, one readily comes to the conclusion that Hongkong is suffering considerably from the dog-pest. The canine specimens, moreover, are such an absolutely useless set that they are no good for remedying the rat-pest so much talked about. Why keep them? In a certain Far Eastern town I once resided in, the dog-pest became so intolerable that indignant residents, after sleepless nights listening to dismal howling of innumerable curs, clamoured for measures to be taken for their extermination, with the result that the town corporation appointed dog-shooters, men employed going round town with a gun and shooting all "wogs" at large. Needless to say, in a very short time the town was a much more pleasant place to live in. Hongkong would not go far wrong in adopting a similar course. Talking of city smells, it may be noted that there is a veritable pest-hole—one of those stagnant pools which breed anything from malaria to typhoid—between Happy Valley and Causeway Bay, just off the connecting thoroughfare, Caroline Road. Though, no doubt, the market-gardener upon whose ground this "beautiful pond" stands might object, it is to be sincerely hoped that such a danger to the colony's health be filled in before long. Perhaps Mr. Brown, the Government Analyst, will tell the Sanitary Board what are the ingredients of the very strong fluid therein. With my deepest sympathy, as a fellow in distress.—Yours sincerely,

MARCUS M.

ELECTRIC TRAMS.

In view of the coming tramway service for Hongkong, now under rapid progress, the doings in matters electrical in Hongkong are perhaps of special interest. There, says a Hongkong exchange, the tenders for the franchise for the electric tramway for that city have been forced to agree to pay a minimum tramway track rent of Rs. 3,000 per mile of double, and Rs. 2,000 per mile of single track per annum, and the same amount, with all respect to the Commissioners, regards this as absurd and such as will prove an unfair drain upon the receipts of electric tramways in Hongkong. With the two miles of double track and three miles of single track now contemplated, this would amount to Rs. 36,000 per annum at the minimum figures. In Sabana, where there is a greater track mileage, much greater scope for expansion, and a traffic far superior to any that can ever be hoped for in Hongkong, the total track rent is Rs. 30,000 per annum. The electric tramway in Sabana pays Rs. 800 per annum per mile of track up to eight miles and above that Rs. 500 per mile. The electric tramway now under construction in Singapore will pay five dollars (Mex.) per cent. per annum of the net profits as total track rent. Doubtless the Hongkong Municipality congratulates itself that it will receive so much at the expense of the railway and may not be brought to look at the matter in any other light even when it finds later that the tramway is unable to maintain a satisfactory service due to abnormal expenses and vexatious restrictions.

MORGAN SHORN OF HIS POWER.

A New York despatch of the 19th ult. says: John D. Rockefeller's heavy hand fell upon the throat of J. Pierpont Morgan to-day and shook loose from the grip of the master manipulator of steel stocks more than \$12,000,000 of bond conversion profits. The contract with J. P. Morgan & Company to convert \$25,000,000 of preferred stock into bonds was cancelled. This action marks the passing of Morgan. He is eliminated as a ruling power in the steel company and his dominance in Wall Street is over. He must hereafter report to Rockefeller. He may be called on to restore the millions his syndicate swept into its coffers by buying steel stock at starving prices and turning each certificate into bond, reaping an average profit of \$1500 or about \$25,000,000. That A. W. Thompson, president of the Republic Iron and Steel Company, is scheduled to become the president of the United States Corporation was the word received from Youngstown, O. The absorption of the Republic company by the steel trust is believed to be Rockefeller's plan. Without warning or advertisement the oil king became also the steel king of the country. His first official act was to cut off at once further action by the bond conversion syndicate headed by Morgan, which has been charging the steel corporation 4 per cent. on all such conversions, while at the same time making enormous profits on every transaction. It was this act of Rockefeller that deprived Morgan of \$12,000,000.

RECOMMEND MACNIVEN & CAMERON'S PENS. THE WAVELEY PEN, for Easy Writing. THE FLYING SCOTCHMAN PEN, inflexible of Quill. THE FLYING J. WRITER 200 words per dip. Sold at all Stationers. WATERLOO WORKS, EDINBURGH. [2945-1]

SINGAPORE VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS.

A decidedly interesting departure from the humdrum style of volunteering was outlined by Capt. B. Pierce at a meeting of the Singapore Royal Engineers (Volunteers) on the 19th inst. In view of the probable disbanding of the Rifles, invitations to attend had also been issued to the members of that Corps, but unfortunately the weather was miserable and only one Rifle appeared. Captain Pierce stated that it was proposed now to compress the work of the Engineers into the space of three months instead of allowing it to extend over a year. During that shortened period, all the varied operations of the Corps will be carried out. The work will be done while the men are flushed with interest in their duties and it is expected that as a result there will be a considerable accession to the ranks of the Engineers. At present the corps is a mere fragment of what it should be, and the hope is expressed that those who formerly belonged to the Rifles will transfer to the Engineers. Captain Pierce remarked that there seemed to be a general belief that only those acquainted with trades should attach themselves to the Engineers. But that idea was utterly wrong, and he strongly urged ex-Rifles to join his Corps. He also stated that instead of going across to Pulo Brani for an hour occasionally to inspect the working of the electric machines, it had been decided to spend three hours at a time on the work. In that period the men would learn more than they would learn in half a dozen visits of an hour's duration each. Everything is to be done to increase the interest in the Corps and keep the members in sympathy with their work. The three months drill will be completed in three periods of a month each, and there will be a monthly shooting handicap.

STOCK IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

It has often been observed by visitors to the New Territory that the verdant-looking hill sides which meet the eye at every turn are barren of both stock and cultivated growth. Why not stock the place with sheep? It is hardly possible that Southdowns or Cheviots would stand the climate, but Australian sheep should be able to do so, accustomed as they are to arid plains and torrential rainfalls. The Government's acknowledged policy is to develop the country. Surely the raising of stock would be a good thing to start experimenting upon? In the same way, suggestions have been made for the introduction of rabbits into the New Territory. The objection is always made that snakes destroy them, but it is also said that the snakes are two-legged. However that may be, a trial in the way of introducing rabbits into the territory would not be far amiss. The rodents could not do any damage to the young crops in the valleys unless they developed the capability of swimming among the flooded paddy-fields.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S CHIVALRY.

The following story was told recently at a public gathering in Germany.—Many years ago Germany was deeply insulted by a nation otherwise distinguished for civility. Count Caprivi, who was at that time head of the Ministry of the Imperial Navy, was asked to express an opinion as to Germany's chances in the event of war, and said, "We should have a gallant opponent, who, however, owing to inferior war material, would not be able to offer a serious resistance." Thereupon Prince Bismarck decided that he could not recommend the Emperor to appeal to the sword, and that arbitration must be resorted to, for, he said, "à vaincre sans péril, on triomphe sans gloire."

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF H.K. AND S. CHINA.

28TH REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING.

At the 28th regular annual meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Hongkong and South China, held at Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, Victoria, Hongkong, last evening, 29th December, 1903, the following appointments for the District Grand Lodge during the year 1904 were made:—

Deputy District Grand Master, Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray; District Senior Grand Warden, Wor. Bro. Thomas Fred Hough; District Junior Grand Warden, Wor. Bro. Augustus Shelton Hooper; District Grand Chaplain, Wor. Bro. G. P. Lammert; District Grand Treasurer, Wor. Bro. G. P. Pirey (Jr.); District Grand Registrar, Wor. Bro. F. D. Goddard; District Grand President of the Board of General Purposes, Wor. Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; District Grand Secretary, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gordon; District Senior Grand Deacon, Wor. Bro. C. J. Lafrentz; District Junior Grand Deacon, Wor. Bro. E. A. Stanton; District Grand Superintendent of Works, Wor. Bro. G. G. Barnett; District Grand Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. C. W. Longue; District Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Wor. Bro. E. W. Hinds; District Grand Sword Bearer, Wor. Bro. F. H. Siemens; District Grand Standard Bearer, Wor. Bros. J. W. L. Oliver and E. Bathurst; District Grand Organist, Bro. G. Grimble; District Grand Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. W. H. Woolley; District Grand Assistant Pursuivant, Wor. Bro. C. H. Grace; District Grand Stewards, Bros. H. Sykes, C. A. D. Melbourne, J. N. Varcoe, H. Croxley, H. Dulloch, and E. D. Thomas; District Grand Tyler, Bro. J. Vanstone.

SHIPPING NOTES.

WEATHER OUTSIDE.

The north-east monsoon continues; arrivals from the west report heavy weather; arrivals from the north fine weather.

A MONTHLY CHARTER.

The Norwegian s.s. *Undine*, 1,017 tons, has been chartered for three months at \$5,500 per month.

BRITISH STEAMER ASHORE.

The *Mainichi* publishes a Hakodate despatch to the effect that a British steamer, laden with sulphur from Kushiro, ran ashore near Muroran on Monday night, December 14th.

THE "ALEXANDER III."

The Russian battleship *Alexander III.*, which was expected to arrive in the Far East in the course of this month, has not yet left Russia. It is now reported that, owing to certain defects in the ship, she is not fit to undertake a long voyage to the Orient.

NEW BRITISH SHIPS.

The Admiralty have placed with Palmer's Shipbuilding Company, Jarrow, orders for three new torpedo-bust destroyers. The vessels will be similar to the six being built by Palmer's Company, except that the engines will have the company's patent system of forced lubrication, which was adopted in H.M. *Syrén* with excellent results.

The Admiralty have also directed three new armoured cruisers of the first class to be built for the Royal Navy by contract, to bear the names of *Achilles*, *Cochrane*, and *Natal*. They have been designed by Mr. P. Watts, Director of Naval Construction, and will have a length of 480ft., and a displacement of 13,550 tons. The engines will show a capacity of 33,500 h.p., to give a speed of 22.33 knots. The *Achilles* will be built at Newcastle, by Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.; the *Cochrane* at Govan (N.B.), by the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company; and the *Natal* at Barrow-in-Furness, by Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim. Each ship is to mount six 9.2 in. and ten 6 in. breech-loading guns, and twenty-eight light quickfiring. Four new 25-knot scouts are also to be built for the Royal Navy, and are to be named the *Attentive*, *Forenight*, *Patrol*, and *Skirmisher*. They will each be equipped with ten 12-pounder quickfiring guns. The *Attentive* will be built at Newcastle, the *Forenight* at Govan, the *Patrol* at Birkenhead, and the *Skirmisher* at Barrow-in-Furness.

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The N.Y.K. steamer *Kinshu Maru* (Bombay Line) left Kobe via Moji on the 28th inst., and is expected here on the 3rd prox.

The N.G.I. steamer *Jacina* left Singapore for this port yesterday, and may be expected here on the 5th prox.

The Boston Steamship Co.'s steamer *Shawmut* left Victoria for Yokohama, Kobe, Hongkong, and Manila on the 28th inst., and may be expected here on the 28th prox.

The Boston Steamship Co.'s steamer *Tremont* left Kobe for Yokohama on the 28th inst.

BRUTAL CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A case has been brought to our notice of gross cruelty to animals shipped from Chefoo to Manila via Hongkong, and we certainly think it is one which the Government here and the local S.P.C.A. too should take up. Our informant is Mr. J. Clifford Wilkinson, who is passing through Hongkong and who gives us permission to use his name as authority for the statements. It appears that 80 mules, destined for the Manila Government, were brought down from Chefoo to Hongkong and here transhipped. On the 18th inst. they left Hongkong on the s.s. *Kaifong* bound for their destination. Mr. Wilkinson informs us that the mules were embarked "higgledy-piggledy," and without an attempt to look after them. The *Kaifong* encountered exceptionally bad weather on the voyage, the sea running exceedingly high and dashing over the vessel. The food for the mules was soon saturated with salt water, while the poor beasts themselves were unable to keep their footing on the slippery decks and slid all over the place; those below were in still worse condition from lack of air. Mules are exceptionally hardy animals, but the fearful treatment they received may be gathered from the fact that on arrival at Manila 18 of the 80 were already dead, and others must have succumbed to exhaustion after landing. No blame whatever, Mr. Wilkinson declares, attaches to Capt. Pennefather or any other officer on the *Kaifong*, who were most humane and did all they could for the unfortunate mules; the vessel indeed was hoisted for 24 hours to lessen their suffering, causing her to take 4 days on the voyage. It is obvious that the fault had nothing to do with the company. But the questions that want answering are: (1) Who is responsible for the beasts being entirely unattended and improperly put on board? (2) What authority in Hongkong looks after beasts shipped or transhipped at this port? Can the answers to these questions be supplied?

The Admiralty do not appear to have a very high opinion of Dover, although in time of hostilities it would be an important station for torpedo craft. "Not safe in winter" is the justification with respect to this port which has been issued to commanding officers of all vessels in the instructional destroyer flotilla. "Shippers" are also advised to light shy of the Downs, except in a westerly gale. Sheerness and Harwich are the only two ports on this part of the British coast that are officially considered suitable to destroyers in all states of the weather.

"A MIRROR FOR FOOLS."

The daily newspaper for women called the *Daily Mirror* has moved the *Saturday Review* to deal with it in an article which reminds one of some of the criticisms of the *Saturday*'s old days:—

We have been trying (says the *Saturday Review*) to fathom the motives that led to the latest output of the famous factory in Carmelite Street. The old trade-mark is there; conspicuous enough; though no stamp of origin was needed. It is the same unmistakable pattern, with the smartness worn off. It was a strong order to inflict a female daily on the world as well as a *Daily Mail*, and we felt that Mr. Harnsworth must have some great public object in view. Plainly the *Mirror* was a mission. We could find no hint of an intelligible motive in the signed advertisement on page 3. (We are not saying anything offensive: "advertisement" is the word used in the old books, and they were literature, for the preface.)

But reflection cast by the paper itself has convinced us that the promoter had a very praiseworthy object. He wanted to help to a solution of an old and vexed question; should women have the suffrage? So he provides at any rate a negative test, which will take us a considerable way. If this paper is a success, it will finally prove that women are hopelessly and irretrievably unfit to be trusted with a vote. We cannot enfranchise a great host of fools.

If, on the other hand, women ignore this paper with laughter and contempt, while it will not prove them capable of the suffrage, for the medium of intelligence required for such an effort of discrimination is too small to warrant any such deduction, at least it will show that they are not obviously unfit. It is to be hoped no member of Parliament will be so inconsiderate as to interrupt this interesting experiment by introducing a Woman's Suffrage Bill next session, unless, of course, the experiment should achieve its own happy dispatch before the opening; when the supporters of woman's franchise should come to Parliament in extremely good spirits. They will have a new and very cogent argument.

The proportionate ingredients of the paper might be arranged thus: Pictures, in effect simply drawers, milliners and ladies' tailors' advertisements, beauty, dress, toilet, the kitchen, society (below-stairs) gossip, seraps, seraps, seraps, a novelette, and one piece of serious news. That is supposed to be the daily food an intelligent Englishwoman must naturally prefer to a real newspaper that told her something about the world and the forces that are moving it. This is the coping stone of the higher education for women. And the promoter means this for 'men' too! So it is set forth. Men have their faults, but we must say for them that we have never known a man, however dresy, who would not be very angry if his morning paper, when he took it up, showed him a picture of a tailor's model. As we said, the promoter of this paper may know more about women than we, but he really must not pretend to understand a man. For it is said with great solemnity, not at all in jest, that the *Mirror* is designed for men. But if the list of departments seems weak, perhaps the equally compensates. "Departments" by the way, is their word, not ours: it is apt, it sounds, as Mr. Chamberlain said of Mr. Asquith's "well-tried policy." Like a shopkeeper's advertisement. The pictures are ordinary milliners' models except that in two of them the lady seems to be having a shower bath, which seems odd, as she is in her clothes. In one case, "the Artistic Tea-gown," some fish seem to have come down with the shower: that does happen sometimes. Turning to the "beauty and toilet department," we learn that before going out a woman should "lave her face with hot rose-water." Would it be too vulgar for the lady to "wash" her face? "The Daily Round for the complexion" tells us that a woman-doctor (is it the *Mirror*'s family practitioner?) says it down that "all efforts to be beautiful are bound in time to improve the general health and to increase the physical powers." Especially, we suppose, painting the face, pinching the feet, hopping on high heels, and tight-lacing. That lady-doctor's name is doubtless Vera. The Dress department tells us "how the modern elegance is created." "We talk, ah yes! an infinity about clothes." Ah yes! but very few can talk in that writer's style. Stylistics is the great "line" in the dress department. Children have "garbling," not frocks, a dress is a "dream," and a mixture of satin and lace is "allied loveliness." "The melting of satin into" something is "a delightful suggestion" still further enhanced by a front of chiffon frills supporting the dantelle, while to the "embroidering of ribbon," &c., is "granted the privilege of hinting at an outline, the fur making the silhouette of the completed creation." And that's the sort of thing Mr. Harnsworth thinks would naturally interest men.

We owe an apology to our readers for transferring such drivel to these pages, but it was necessary to show from the first number of the paper what it was meant to be. If this does hit women's taste in literature, obviously they are inferior animals to men: obviously it would be absurd to put before them any of the big things of the world. But we refuse to believe that educated women will allow this charge to be established against them. The notion of a feminine newspaper is even more absurd than of stories for girls. A woman brought up on the conventional story for girls and then on the *Daily Mirror* must plainly be relegated to a lazarum. We should have to turn Turk in self-defence. None the less we propose to enter for a *Mirror* competition. A thousand pounds is offered for "the best suggestion for the improvement of the journal." A postcard is cheaper than any one's opinion, so we can afford to send in ours. Our card will say in all sincerity: Drop it.

NOTICE.

Owing to the Great Increase in the Furniture Business of Messrs. ACHIE & CO., we are requested by them to Resum. Management of the Photographic Business hitherto carried on in their name on our behalf. From this date we will continue the Photographic business at the same place under the name of

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A FIGHT THAT FAILED.

In the full expectation that a glorious battle, an action by the authorities, was to take place on the Esplanade, the Chinamen of Singapore assembled there in thousands on the 14th inst., says the *Straits Times*. It was to be a sort of monster prize-fight, with broken heads for trophies and damaged carcasses for luck. The two great tribes of Maene and Teochow were to fight for the standard, and the Sikh police were to keep order and prevent rival tribesmen joining in the fray. Nothing like it had been heard of since the days of the border battles, and if there were not some vacancies in the coolie lists it would not be for lack of honest effort. The leaders were reported to be magnificent men in their way—Indeed, if all stories be true, they were of a mythological type of heroes. The Maene man had vanquished all his enemies on earth and was now engaged in the sure and certain hope of defeating the spirits of the air. Of course he had time to lead his natural-born tribesmen to victory and the opportunity had come. The lax and benevolent police of Singapore had decided that if there was one spot on earth specially dedicated to the settlement of old scores it was the Esplanade. And these valiant warriors of the north should be protected while settling their disputes. A conservative estimate gives the number present at about 15,000.

There are several allegedly correct versions as to the origin of the affair. It seems that during the annual "Chingay" procession, says our contemporary, some friction arose between the Teochew and Maene clans, and it was feared that trouble was brewing among them. It was at first thought that a pitched battle was to be fought between the Teochews and Maene. We understand that the clans eventually decided that a champion should be picked from each side, and that the two thus selected should be pitted against each other. It is also stated that thousands of hand bills and placards were circulated all over Singapore to the effect that the Tai Jia (Chinese Protector) had given permission for the fight to take place on the Esplanade. Whether the clans would abide by the result of the fight, or would attack each other, was not known. The police authorities were soon on the *qui-vive*, and took precautions accordingly. An armed body of men was quartered in the Marine Station just behind the Supreme Court in case of hostilities breaking out. The police say that if the coolies had decided to riot or fight, they could not have chosen a better place than the Esplanade, as the police could then have formed a Gordon round them; but it is to be questioned whether the police would have been able to check a rush from the huge crowd assembled on the Plain. As it turned out, however, the crowd was quite orderly, and the police got them to "move on" without any disturbance. Only one arrest was made, and the delinquent in that case was let off with a fine of \$2 when charged before Mr. Cavendish.

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Messrs. KELLY & WALSH.
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Canton: Messrs. A. S. WATSON & Co.
Hongkong, 9th October, 1903. [2836]

CHRISTMAS 1903.

THE undersigned is now prepared to supply
CHRISTMAS CAKES
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lbs., and also MINGE PIES, ASSORTED
CAKES, &c., &c.

DORABJEE & SON,
Hongkong Bakery,
41, Des Vaux Road.
Hongkong, 14th December, 1903. [3144]

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REFRESHMENT CONTRACTOR and
CATERER.
Ball Suppers, Dance Suppers, Picnics, Lun-
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Cutlery, Crockery, and Table Linen on hire.
For Terms, apply to— YING KEE,
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Hongkong, 12th December, 1903. [3436]

AUTOMATIC MAUSER
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CALIBRE 7.63 m.m.
WITH CHAMBER for 10 CARTRIDGES
FIRING 10 SHOTS in 2 SECONDS.
SIEMSEN & CO.
Hongkong, 3rd October, 1900.

TO LET

HOUSE No. 2, QUEEN'S GARDENS
from 31st December, 1903.

Apply—
Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.
Hongkong, 12th December, 1903. [3436]

TO LET

FINE FRONT OFFICE on Queen's Road
Central; can be occupied at once.
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Hongkong, 14th December, 1903. [3442]

TO LET.

No. 2, "MAGDALEN TERRACE,"
MAGAZINE GAP.
Apply to—
SPANISH PROCURATION.
Hongkong, 1st July, 1903. [73]

TO LET.

TWO SPACIOUS GODOWNS—Nos. 95
and 99, PRATA EAST.
Apply to—
H. N. MODY,
Victoria Buildings.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1902. [32]

TO LET.

No. 1, RYDON TERRACE (in FLATS).
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No. 15, WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD,
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FLATS in MORETON TERRACE, facing the
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OFFICES in course of erection, CONNAUGHT
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GODOWNS No. 3A, BLUE BUILDINGS.
GODOWNS, PRATA EAST.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY CO., LD.
Hongkong, 1st December, 1903. [3312]

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At SEAVIEW S.E. No. 3 POLICE STATION.
ROOM FURNISHED or UNFURNISHED.
RD. with Bathroom and Gas. Good View
of Harbour, Gardens, &c.
Apply to—
Mrs. F. G. ALLEN,
Seaview, Wanchai Gap Road.
Hongkong, 5th December, 1903. [3356]

TO LET.

SIX-ROOMED HOUSE at PEAK (Fur-
nished) from 1st April, 1904.
BISHOP'S LODGE (PEAK).
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No. 4, CAMERON VILLAS (PEAK).
"WESTWARD HO" BONHAM ROAD.
"ALEXANDRA" BUILDINGS, Rooms
on the Top Floor.
"CRINGLEFORD," ROBINSON ROAD
(Furnished), for 1 year from 1st April, 1904.
No. 2, MATHESON STREET, Wanchai
(Godown).
Apply to—
Linstead & Davis.
Hongkong, 24th December, 1903. [3479]

TO LET.

TWO SPACIOUS NEW GODOWNS,
very suitable for Dry Goods.
Apply to—
W. LYSAGHT,
153, Wanchai Road.
Hongkong, 3rd December, 1903. [3332]

TO LET.

HOUSE TO LET AT MACAO.
LARGE and COMFORTABLE HOUSE
facing the Avenida Vasco da Gama, with
Garden and out-houses.
Apply to—
LUIZ EUSEBIO DA SILVA,
Macao.
Macao, 23rd December, 1903. [3544]

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FIRST and SECOND FLOORS of No. 34,
Queen's Road Central, opposite the
General Post Office, after March 31st, 1904, at
present occupied by Messrs. Powell & Co., and
the Cosmopolitan House. This house is
especially suitable for people who are seeking
places for hotel purposes.
Please apply to—
YEE SANG FAT,
at the above address.
Hongkong, 29th December, 1903. [3579]

TO LET.

2ND and 3RD FLOORS, No. 35, QUEEN'S
ROAD CENTRAL; suitable for Office.
Apply to—
WING CHEONG,
35, Queen's Road Central
Hongkong, 3rd November, 1903. [193]

BOARD AND RESIDENCE

"TANG YUEN,"
BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT.
European Supervision. Excellent Cuisine
and Accommodation.
Apply to—
MANAGERESS,
Macdonnell Road
or
FAIRALL & CO., Queen's Road
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1903. [631]

M. MATTHAEY.

PRIVATE BOARD AND RESIDENCE.
14, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL
(Entrance by Zetland Street),
Opposite Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Booksellers.
Hongkong, 11th July, 1903. [193]

FIRST-CLASS BOARD & RESIDENCE

"ST. GEORGE'S HOUSE,"
2 & 4, KENNEDY ROAD,
and
"TOWER HOUSE," Kennedy Road.
EXCELLENT Table, Every home comfort.
Well furnished rooms facing the harbour.
For terms, apply to—
Mrs. G. SACHSE,
"St. George's House,"
Hongkong, 17th March, 1903. [632]

BOARD AND RESIDENCE.

MRS. GILLANDERS,
"GLENWOOD,"
21, CAIN ROAD.
Hongkong, 20th March, 1903. [2626]

BOARD AND RESIDENCE.

COMFORTABLY FURNISHED
ROOMS, with Board.
Apply to Mrs. MATHER,
2, Pedder's Hill,
Hongkong, 1st January, 1892

IN PRISON AT PORT ARTHUR.

ADVENTURES OF THREE JAPANESE.

The Japan Times translates some experiences
of the Japanese merchants who were recently
imprisoned at Port Arthur by the Russians,
which were published in the Jiji and the Chugai
Shogy. Mr. Hajime Yamana, one of the party,
makes the following statement:—

Mr. Manichi Takenouchi and I, both of the
Kanagafuchi Cotton Mill, and Mr. Kokichi
Tsuiji, of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, left New-
chwang for the interior of Manchuria at the
beginning of September for the purpose of
ascertaining what kind of cotton yarns the
Chinese would take and what manner of trans-
actions they would prefer. War rumours were
in the air, and it was considered to be dangerous
to venture far inland. We therefore visited
Liao-yang, Moukden, Tieling, etc., and their
outlying districts.

The arrest took place at Haiping on the
morning of the 23rd September. We were then
waiting for a train in order to go to Kaiping.
Mr. Takenouchi was walking beyond the railway
tracks, when some Russian soldiers suddenly
arrested him, on suspicion of his having ordered
something into his note-book. Mr. Tsuiji and
I were also arrested on account of our being in
his company. We were then brought before
the commander of the Russian garrison, who
asked us the purpose and destination of our
journey and searched our clothes and baggage.
Finally it was announced that examination was
not completed, and a little past midnight we
were put on board a train in custody of several
soldiers. For fifteen hours we were left without
food.

We were told that our destination was
Tashihelio, but the train was running north-
ward, instead of to the south. There was a
Japanese in the carriage, and not suspecting
that we were in custody, he asked us our
destination. I was impatient to let him know
that we were in the clutches of the Russian
military authorities, and was going to answer
when our guards became angry, struck the
Japanese traveller, and finally forced him out
of the carriage.

Under such conditions it was vain to hope
for communication with our countrymen, even
if we were lucky enough to meet one of them.
So I bribed the Russian soldiers and bought
beer for them, with the result that their man-
ner greatly softened and they began to talk with
us. At a station called Kuanchengta, I de-
scribed a Japanese on the platform, and
sauntered out from the carriage. As a Russian
soldier of course followed me, I gave him
some money. But as it was out of the
question to address the Japanese openly, I
drew him to a cigarette stall, and while buying
cigarettes, asked him to inform the Mitsui
Bussan Kaisha at Newchwang of our arrest.

The train stopped at Harbin on the 25th,
at 2 p.m., when I was able to send a Japanese
for Mr. Kawai, of the Mitsui Bussan office at
Dalny, who was then staying at Harbin. He
came to the station, saw us, talked to the
Russian soldiers, and said to us: "Beat easy!
I will do something."

We were then conveyed to the Russian
barracks at Harbin, where we were imprisoned
for about 24 hours without any court proceedings.
On the 26th, at 2 p.m., we were again put in
a train bound for Port Arthur. A Russian
officer and four soldiers guarded us.

Meanwhile the Mitsui Bussan's office at
Dalny, receiving a telegram from Mr. Kawai,
was deeply anxious about our fate, and sent one
of its officials, Mr. Fujioka, to the station, where
there is a junction, the name of which I
have forgotten. Mr. Fujioka was awaiting
us, and on our arrival there he came into our
train. We saw each other, but were not able
to converse. He remained with us until we
arrived at Port Arthur on the 28th, at 4 p.m.,
when we were conveyed in a carriage to the
General Staff Office. En route, however, Mr.
Fujioka, lost track of us, having been unable
to keep near for fear that the Russians should
suspect his purpose.

We were kept at the Staff Office for three or
four hours, but the Russians did not examine
us. By and bye, we were cast separately into
the Russian prison, where we remained for the
subsequent 39 days without trial.

There is a Japanese firm called the Yoshida
Shosen at Port Arthur. It is purveyor to the
Russian army and has business connections with
the Mitsui Bussan. Mr. Fujioka, troubled at
losing track of us, was consulting with the people
of the firm, when a Russian soldier appeared and
asked if they could prepare Japanese food for
three persons. The Japanese rightly con-
sidered that the food was for us, and consented
to supply it. This arrangement enabled them
to learn our fate and ourselves to know that
the Yoshida firm was still unmolested at
Port Arthur, and that the world was still at
peace. What we apprehended most was war,
in the event of which we should have been
butchered. On the 27th October, we were tried
for the first time by the court martial. Mr. Hino,
representative of the Japanese at Port Arthur,
interpreting. The chief procurator, and the
chief of a police station, who was a major, took
down the description of the route we had
travelled, the object of the journey, etc., and
made us sign affidavits. The next day, a soldier
tossed us our baggage and announced that we
might go. We were all very weak, and there-
fore lodged a night at the Yoshida firm, and
returned to Newchwang by the Nantou Maru.

We spent 31 days in the prison, besides 5 days
in travelling in Russian custody.
The prison at Port Arthur is enclosed by high
walls and contains 17 or 18 cells. Each cell is
6 feet wide and 9 feet long; the door consists of
tremendously thick boards; the walls are of
brick one foot in thickness, and the floor is made
of cement. The cell has only one window of

about 3 feet square, which has a lattice of iron
bars, and double panes of thick glass beyond
the lattice. The door has also a hole of about
five inches square, through which food is admit-
ted. The hole is about 5 feet 5 inches above
the floor. The furniture of the cell consists of
an iron bed, straw matting two inches thick,
and a table. Each cell is guarded by a soldier,
and there are always about 50 more on duty in
the courtyard. Their vigilance is something
beyond belief. They would never permit us to
sleep for two consecutive hours. Every time
they were relieved, they would knock at the door
with their swords or kick it until we responded.

The monotony of the prison life was un-
paralleled. We had nothing to read or to do.
For 31 days we had to brood over our fate.
A source of unspeakable misery was the
thinness of our clothes. I was attired in a
summer suit of alpaca and white trousers, and
had nothing with which to keep myself warm
except a thin blanket, and it was snowing when
we were released. The cold seemed to reach
the marrow, and I thought I should be frozen
to death before long. Our guards were greedy
beyond description. Without bribes, they
would do nothing for us. Some of them would
thrust their hands into our pockets and ask us
if we had Chinese if there was any money in them.
If we answered in the affirmative, they would
press us for a tip. Often enough they took
money to buy us food and then failed to do so.
In this manner prison life cost me some 60 yen
in the shape of bribes to the Russian soldiers,
to say nothing of a hundred other losses.

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Extreme Length... 523 feet.
Length on Blocks... 512
Width of Entrance on Top... 69
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Water on Blocks at Spring Tide 264

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Extreme Length... 371 feet
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Hongkong, 25th July 1903. [211]

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Hongkong 23th October, 1903

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W. PARLANE, Manager.
Hongkong, 18th November, 1901. [65]



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Amoy, 3rd December, 1903. [3337]

